H.M.T. Units in NER

662. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether H.M.T. has any factory or installation in Assam and N.E. Region;

(b) if so, whether these are running properly;

(c) if not, the reasons of their closure; and

(d) the steps Government propose to close such installation and industry in N.E. Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, HMT Ltd. and its subsidiaries do not have any factory or installation in Assam and N.E. Region. N.P.(c) and (d) HMT Ltd. had a Miniature Battery Unit at Guwahati, Assam Manufacturing Button type of cells for quartz watches. As a part of Turnaround Plan of HMT, in 2000 it was decided to close down five unviable and chronically loss making units including Miniature Battery Unit at Guwahati, Assam. This unit was closed on 31.12.2000 by giving VRS to the employees. The land on which it was situated has been taken over by Assam Industrial Development Corporation.

Autonomy to Universities

663. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Advisory Board of Education's First Report recommended for autonomy to the Universities to start self-financing courses;

(b) if so, whether the Report has been discussed within his Ministry;

(c) the other recommendations made by the CABE with regard to University education;

(d) whether it is also a fact that CABE strongly recommended that 1/3rd of the investment should go to higher education; and